

## Best Practice and Principle

Colleges and universities across the United States currently are facing serious challenges to bedrock goals and values of higher education. ~~Our~~ ~~mission~~ ~~is~~ ~~to~~ ~~prepare~~ ~~students~~ ~~to~~ ~~lead~~ ~~the~~ ~~world~~ ~~and~~ ~~drive~~ ~~innovation~~ ~~and~~ ~~economic~~ ~~growth~~.

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2. Disorderly conduct, endangering the safety of others, and harassing any member of the university community will not be tolerated. (See e.g., [Columbia University: Task Force on Antisemitism, Rules on Demonstrations \(Report No. 1, March 2024\)](#) and [Stanford University: Campus Disruptions: Policy Statement \(1967\)](#))
3. Students may not deface or materially change the meaning of another community member's previous expression of speech. (See e.g., [Emory University: Posting Guidelines and Practices \(May 2016\)](#))
4. Students may not prevent other members of the university community from hearing a speaker by means of shouts, interruptions, or chants. The university must safeguard the rights of students, faculty, and staff to

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*formally organized classes, lectures, seminars, etc., dealing with specific phases of academic instruction, members of the teaching staff may not subject students to their particular views and opinions concerning matters not related to the course of instruction itself. Faculty members are presumed to be competent authorities in the subject matter of their formally organized courses of instruction; in other matters they are merely citizens and within the organized classrooms of the university have no right to inflict their views and opinions on issues extraneous to the course of instruction.*

exposed to different perspectives and viewpoints, including those to which they strongly disagree. A robust education requires that faculty maintain a commitment to respectful debate and discussion around a full and open exchange of ideas. Faculty may not discriminate against any student on political grounds, or based on that student's legally protected status including that student's actual or perceived religion,

#### **C** **r** **r** **E** **c** **t** **I** **r** Faculty

should not disrupt the proper functioning of the university and its activities. They should not abuse their classrooms or official university communication channels as vehicles for advocating on behalf of their personal political positions and viewpoints.

Faculty should not distort the instructional process by using the classroom as an instrument for advancing partisan interest. Allowing the classroom to be used for political indoctrination, or more generally for purposes other than those for which the course was designed, constitutes a misuse of the university as an institution. For example, students have a right to a regular schedule of classes; faculty should not cancel a class session for the purpose of encouraging students to participate in a protest, demonstration, or rally.

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Faculty should be guided by a deep commitment to open inquiry and the advancement of knowledge. Toward this end, they should at all times strive to exercise good judgement and critical self-discipline in creating and disseminating knowledge. They should be aware that their institution, discipline, and profession may be judged by the public on the basis of their activities and communications. Accordingly, they should practice intellectual honesty and academic integrity.

Faculty have an obligation to support and to model a respectful learning environment for students. Students should be challenged to make well-reasoned arguments and should be



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[University of Pennsylvania: A Message on Ending the Encampment](#), Interim President J. Larry Jameson, Provost John L. Jackson, Jr., and Senior Executive Vice President Craig R. Carnaroli (May 10, 2024)

[University of Chicago: Ending the Encampment](#), President Paul Alivisatos (May 7, 2024)

[Harvard University: Encampment in Harvard Yard](#), Interim President Alan M. Garber (May 6, 2024)

[UC San Diego: A New Update](#) from Chancellor Pradeep K. Khosla (May 6, 2024)

[University of Southern California: Campus Update](#), President Carol L. Folt (May 5, 2024)

[University of Florida: The Adults Are Still in Charge at the University of Florida](#), President Ben Sasse (May 3, 2024)

[NYU: The Greene St. Walkway Encampment](#), President Linda G. Mills (May 3, 2024)

[Tulane University: A Message to the Tulane Community](#), President Michael A. Fitts, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Robin Forman, and Senior Vice President/Chief Operating Officer/Treasurer Patrick Norton (May 3, 2024)

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